



B.U.U.C. News

Volume 12, Issue 10

June 2008

BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, 9 Upper River Street, Brookfield, MA
(508) 867-5145

On Line at www.buuc.org

A MOMENT OF THOUGHT

Dear Friends,

During a recent trip to Philadelphia, David and I happened upon the only East Coast showing of a Frida Kahlo art exhibit. She was a twentieth century Mexican artist whose style was strongly influenced by traditional, indigenous Mexican art as well as the art movement of the European surrealists. Her work is colorful and vibrant; her images are symbolic and striking. She is known particularly for her self-portraits, which often express her life-long struggle with severe medical issues and her role as a woman in Mexican culture.

It is these self-portraits that stood out the most to me. Again and again she painted image after image of herself. Many of her self-portraits were nearly identical in the image of her face, though they held a wide range of scenes and object, her face seemed to be the one constant. It seems to have been her way of reconciling her internal vision of self with her external reality. But it also seemed to me to be her way of seeking herself, of attempting to know the essential Frida.

That is what I think so many of us are trying to do – find and capture our essential selves. We try to glimpse a sense of who we are separate from all our duties and responsibilities, our relationships and pasts. Many of us seek to experience that moment when we discover that innermost identity, that part of us not touched by living. It seems as though we think of the core self as having never been exposed to the world, to pain or suffering, jealousy or hatred. It is a self contained and immune from want and unhappiness. It is presumably one content and focused only on what makes itself happy, a self free. But if that is true, if there exists within us a self that is 'pure' and 'free' what could that self consist of? If there is a part of us separate from all we have done and lived, then how can it still be us?

When we talk of 'our true selves,' the essence of who we are, maybe what we really are talking about our desire to have some element of self that is focused only on our happiness and contentment, whose job it is to choose our hopes above others. A piece that when attended to brings us peace and fulfillment. Maybe when we seek that innermost self, what we are truly looking for is a part free from pain and responsibility and burdens. A part we have set aside to hold what makes us most happy, to wait for the right time and conditions to step forward and lead the way rather than to lurk in the

background of our days while we do what makes others happy.

But is that self actually separate from the rest of us? Or do we see it as distinct because we do not wish to be tied to identities others have placed on us, some of which do not fit well and are cumbersome. I think, though we long for the freedom of this inner self, we cannot live separate from our responsibilities, our relationships, our multi-faceted identities. But what we can do is, again and again strive to name and to live our innermost self within the many images, whether imposed upon us by others or the portraits we paint of ourselves. The reality is, I think, that our true self shows itself in all we do, in all we are to those we share our lives with. The trick then is to recognize that self in our living and to not let those images be overwhelmed and overshadowed by the input of others, but to create with our own hands and words and being our self portrait.

Blessings,
Rev. Sara

RE News

Wow...how time flies! Here we are at the end of another church year!

Angus MacLean, an Universalist religious educator said: *"Religious education is, for us, a creative conversation carried on between our children, ourselves and the life that surrounds us. It is an on-going adventure that has as its purpose the molding of a certain kind of person...one who can think fully and act responsibly...who possesses strong inner resources of courage and hope...who will be acquainted with our universal religious heritage...and who will become a person of broad sympathies and deep compassion for all people."*

Religious Education 2008-2009

Planning is well underway. We will be looking at several world religions and what they mean to us as Unitarian Universalists. Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Earth based religions are all being considered at this time. RE will look a little different for next year for most children. Children will experience children's worship. We will use the Spirit Play model intermittently. There is no "all ready" curriculum written for World Religions so we will be pulling from lots of sources. That makes things pretty exciting!

and RE Adults are needed!

The newly established RE Committee members will soon be seeking out adults for next year's program. We need teachers and helpers and resource people. Do you love cardboard construction? Or papier mache? Might you cook for a "festival"? Can you direct a play? Do you play the sitar or the sistrum or...? Would you like to be inspired by our delightfully insightful children? Consider RE and let it be a part of your spiritual practice.

RE Registration

for church year 2008-2009 will begin soon. Do you expect your child/ren to be a regular attendee(s) of the RE program next year? Linda Friedmann, a member of the RE Committee has taken on the task of registration earlier than usual so we can better plan groups and supports for children for next year. Registration Forms will be appearing shortly!

Thanks for this year!

Our RE focus was Our Unitarian Universalist Identity.

Explorers Group completed the UU curriculum Chalice Children having talked about self, family, community and the world. Thank you to Nancy Hyde, Karla Galuska and Sharon Smith for leading this group with humor and energy. This was the first church school experience for most of **these children and they did a really good job.**

The **Searchers** (K-Gr. 2) and **Seekers** (Gr. 3-5) experienced a new RE model with Spirit Play (SP) Class. Themes for the year included UU Basics, Spiritual Practices, UU History and UU Sources. Many of the SP sessions were created "in house" as this group has a wider age span than what is typical for a SP group. Thanks to contributors Carla Schirm, Maryann Adams, Donna Boyea, Bob Swift, Rev. Sara, Lila Farrar, Giovina George and Ruth King.

Junior Youth have finished the UU curriculum Compass Points exploring their selves, their beliefs, their UU faith and their relationships with others and the world. Thanks go to Alan Hyde and Laurie Magnuson for their commitment to this special group of young people.

Many thanks to Doug Smith and John Grabosky who put in hours of creative effort and research for the Senior Youth.

RE Celebration

June 15, 2008 is Children's Sunday. This special Sunday celebrates the participation of the Church School Children and gives them the opportunity to share their experience through worship. Planning has begun and children will be volunteering as readers, writers and musicians soon. Please let your children know that s/he will be there!

Big Blessings,
Laurel Burdon, Director of Religious Education

MUSIC NOTES

Backward and Forward.

As we approach the end of the church year, it is time to look forward and backward.

First, looking back at the year musically we see the participation of some 43 people. I am very proud of this. I am sure that there are much larger congregations that cannot say as much. We had choir alone, choir with piano and choir with various "orchestras." We had vocal solos and duets and trios. We had instrumental solos, and our "Celtic Band". Thank you to all you participated. Without you our music would have been less.

Then, looking forward, I will repeat the invitation to attend at least some of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network summer conference, being held in Boston August 5 to 10. At the very least, I hope you will attend the Sunday morning worship service on August 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Arlington Street Church in downtown Boston. Rev. William Sinkford will preach, and the music will be your ordinary +200 voice choir (!) made up of conference attendees. To learn more about the conference or the service, see the information on the Parlor Organ or talk to me.

Last Choir Practice of the Season.

June 19 will be the last choir practice of the season. We will rest (or sing elsewhere) for the summer, and resume practicing, at some point in August. If you have interest or questions about contributing musically to BUUC, please see me. Unlike almost any choir I have ever heard of, we need to recruit altos; either persuading former singers to return or recruiting new ones, but we would welcome more singers in any section.

Lila M Farrar, Music Director

WORSHIP NEWS

Homecoming.

Please join us on Sunday, June 8 when the BUUC pulpit will be filled by Misty-Dawn Shelly. Misty-Dawn has been a member of the BUUC since 2001. She has served on various committees. In 2004, Misty entered Andover Newton Theological School to pursue a Master of Divinity degree, in preparation for ordained ministry. She has recently completed field education, as the student minister at First Parish UU in Norwell, MA. Misty will graduate in May 2009 and continue to follow the steps of ordination in hopes of entering preliminary fellowship in 2010...that's the plan at least. "I am grateful for the continued support from the members and staff of my home church. I couldn't do it without knowing I have a place to come "home" to."

Summer Services Starting on June 29.

SUMMER SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN 2008:

Sunday, June 29, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, July 13, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, July 27, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, August 10, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, August 24, 9:30 a.m.

<p>Please consider remembering the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church in your will.</p>
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The Flower Committee wishes to thank everyone who contributed flowers for Sunday Services this year.

~Lila Farrar, Donna Sullivan and Judy Trifone

JUNE EVENTS!

~Sunday, June 1, 12:30-2:30 p.m. & June 15, 6:30-8:30p.m., **Spirit in Practice Adult Religious Education.**

~Sunday, June 1, 3:30 p.m., **Maria Puliafico Concert** sponsored by Brookfield Institute

~Sunday, June 1 & 15, 6:00 p.m., **Meditation Group.***

~Sunday, June 1, **Deadline for purchasing tickets for BUUC Night at the Worcester Tornadoes.**

~Wednesday, June 4, 9:00 a.m., **Staff Meeting.**

~Wednesday, June 4, noon, **Elder Luncheon.**

~Wednesday, June 4, 7:00 p.m., **Executive Committee Meeting.**

~Thursdays, June 5, 12, and 19 6:55 to 8:30 p.m.; **Choir Practice.** Last choir rehearsal for the church year is June 19.

~Tuesday, June 10, 6:00 p.m., **Women's Alliance Meeting Pot Luck at Sullivans'.**

~Sunday, June 15, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., **Spirit in Practice Adult Religious Education.**

~Wednesday, June 18, 8:00 p.m., **Summer Solstice Service.**

~Sunday, June 22, 10:30 a.m., **Last service of the Church Year and Pot Luck** after the service.

~June 25 – June 29, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, **UUA General Assembly.**

Previews of Coming Attractions.

~Tuesday, July 22, 7:05 p.m., **BUUC Night at the Worcester Tornadoes.**

~Saturday, July 26, 4:00 p.m., **Wedding.**

~Sunday, July 27, **BUUC Family Picnic**, details to be announced.

~ Sunday, August 10, **UU Musician's Network Service (details to follow)**, Boston

~Sunday, September 7, 2008, 10:30 a.m., **Homecoming Sunday.**

~Saturday, October 18, **Mulligan-Light Wedding.**

GREEN SANCTUARY INFO

Green Tip: Unclog Your Drains the Green Way.

Here is an easy, green, and eventually inexpensive way to unclog drains. Liquid drain cleaners are expensive and have harmful ingredients including sodium hydroxide, which irritates your skin nose and throat. Some drain cleaners are so caustic that they can degrade your pipes if you use them often, not to mention what it does to the ground or water supply. Consider buying the Cobra Zip-It, which is a simple drain declogger for shallow clogs. It sells for about three dollars at many hardware stores. We are glad we bought a plumber's auger a few years ago, which has saved us

a small fortune. They come in different lengths. Go for long rather than the shortest. This tip is partially from www.IdealBite.com.

The Dirty Dozen.

The third Dirty Dozen is coffee! "Many of the beans you buy come from countries that don't regulate the use of chemicals and pesticides. Look for the Fair Trade Certified label on the coffee package or can which will give you some assurance that chemicals and pesticides were not used. This will also mean that fair prices were paid for the end product in support of the farm and that the workers are treated fairly." All the above applies to Chocolate as well.

~Submitted by Daphne Stevens

WELCOMING CONGREGATION TEAM

Summer BUUC Family Picnic

The Welcoming Congregation Team is exploring the organization of a family picnic this summer, possibly on July 27, possibly at Lewis Field in Brookfield. Stay tuned for more information. If you would like to help or provide any input to time/location/activities, please contact Heidi Knowlton.

CONCERT ANNOUNCED

Sponsored by The Brookfield Institute.

The Brookfield Institute is sponsoring a concert featuring mezzo soprano, Maria Puliafico on June 1 at 3:30 p.m. at the BUUC to benefit the work of the Brookfield Institute. The ticket price for this concert is \$25 and includes a garden reception at the Brookfield Inn following the concert. Tickets may be purchased by sending your check, to The Brookfield Institute, P. O. Box 388, Brookfield, MA 01506 or ordered on-line at www.brookfieldinstitute.org.

"The Brookfield Institute is a non-profit organization with sophisticated approaches to help people find peace in themselves, in their homes and families, in their workplaces and communities and, ultimately, in the world. We bring cutting edge research from several different fields to the lives of every day people." To learn more, please visit The Brookfield Institute website.

ROAD WORK BEGINS

We have been informed that road work will begin some time in the month of May to continue through July on Upper River Street from Route 9 to at least the end of the Common. Please be aware that though there will be parking on Sunday mornings, the street will be torn up and dirty. If you are concerned about this, you may want to park on the far side of the Common. Any meetings during the week will most likely be impacted by this roadwork.

BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

P. O. Box 386

9 Upper River Street

Brookfield, MA 01506

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church
is a fellowship of seekers after truth,
bound by no dogma, restricted by no creed.



Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m.
Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church
"The Little Stone Church That Rocks"
Telephone (508) 867-5145
www.buuc.org

TO:

BROOKFIELD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service, 10:30 a.m. Adult RE, 12:30-2:30 pm Concert, 3:30 pm	2	3	4 Staff Meeting, 9:30 am Elder Luncheon, noon Exec. Com. Meeting 7:00 pm	5 Choir Practice, 6:55-8:30 pm	6	7
8 Service, 10:30 a.m.	9	10 Women's Alliance Pot Luck, 6 pm	11 Welcoming Com. Mtg, 7 pm	12 Choir Practice, 6:55-8:30 pm	13	14
15 Newsletter deadline. Service, 10:30 a.m. Adult RE, 6:30-8:30 pm	16	17	18 Summer Solstice Service, 8 pm	19 Choir Practice, 6:55-8:30 pm	20	21
22 Service, 10:30 a.m. Pot Luck, noon	23	24	25 UUA General Assembly, June 25 – 29.	26	27	28
29 Service, 9:30 a.m.	30					